wherein said one or more candidates are presented visually to the user as a suggestion for contact.

27. (Once Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

34. (Once Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said presenting visually to the user step further comprises insertion of said available image or identifying information into a GUI.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 8/8/02 and the interview of 11/21/02. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 4, 10-15, 17, 22-26, 28, and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Xcontact.

Claims 3, 9, 16, 21, 27, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Xcontact.

Claims 5, 6-8, 18-20, 29, 30, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

anticipated by Xcontact (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,726) in view of Kennedy et al. (U.S. Patent No.

5,831,611).

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not

hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
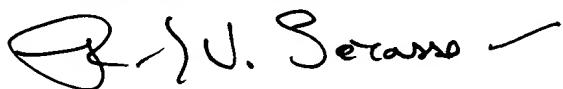
Randy W. Lacasse
Registration No. 34,368

1725 Duke Street
Suite 650
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-7683
December 4, 2002

APPENDIX A

In the specification:

Please amend paragraph 2 on page 2, beginning on line 9 as follows:

Remembering anniversaries, birthdays, meetings, bill-payment, special occasions or other important dates or events can become a large task when you have a busy schedule. Typically, people are in a constant state of catch up; there are always more demands than free time. Yet when there is free time, it gets idled away. One of the first things to get squeezed out of people's time is other people (e.g. e.g., business, professional and personal contacts). For example, people frequently fail to follow up on business accounts that went to their competitors. Or, when was the last time an individual saw colleagues from their university, acquaintances from prior years year's conventions, friends from previous projects or jobs? Or, when was the last time the individual invited their neighbors over for dinner or followed up on a Christmas card?

Please amend paragraph 1 on page 4, beginning on line 1 as follows:

The prior art fails to provide an ongoing system and method for automatically selecting from a contact list whom a user should keep in touch with and display such selection(s) to the user. The user is presented with an image of a business associate, professional contact, and/or friend/family. Seeing that image reminds the user of how long it has been since they last met. The user then selects (e.g. e.g., clicks with a computer mouse) the image of the displayed candidate to make contact. Furthermore, the system dynamically presents possible contacts to the user. The prior art fails to include the above noted features as well as other benefits described, illustrated, and claimed hereafter.

Please amend paragraph 4 on page 6, beginning on line 7 as follows:

While this invention is illustrated and described in a preferred embodiment, the ~~device~~ invention_may be produced in many different configurations, forms and elements. There is depicted in the drawings, and will herein be described in detail, a preferred embodiment of the invention, with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention ~~and the associated functional specifications of the materials for its construction~~ and is not intended to limit the invention to the embodiment illustrated. Those skilled in the art will envision many other possible variations within the scope of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph 5 on page 6, beginning on line 15 as follows:

Referring now to the drawings, figure 1 illustrates a schematic overview of the invented system architecture 100 that provides as an output a suggested candidate to make contact with. The system is employed either manually, via user request 108, or automatically, via timer module 110. In the manual mode of operation, the user requests the system to select a possible candidate(s) from contact list 104. In the automatic mode of operation, a time reference (~~i.e.~~ i.e., special dates such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc.), which is pre-stored in user preferences 102, initiates the selection cycle. A time reference includes such things as making contacts in a specified period (~~e.g.~~ e.g., daily for business contacts, weekly for friends or monthly for family, etc.) or with a calendar function (~~e.g.~~ e.g., two weeks from a previous meeting - ~~i.e.~~ i.e., follow-up). With a calendar function, frequency can change if an individual is involved in certain activities, ~~e.g.~~ e.g., notify the individual every day with a contact when she/he is on vacation or notify the individual of a contact that she/he hasn't seen in the longest/shortest period of time. Upon reaching the time reference, the system automatically selects a possible candidate(s).

Search/Select module 114 determines the specific candidates, including the number of candidates, to be selected from contact list 104 based on user preferences pre-stored in 102. Selections are based on various algorithms, some possible choices include:

Please amend paragraph 1 on page 10, beginning on line 21 as follows:

Referring to figure 2, the basic selection algorithm first determines if a selected candidate count is less than a maximum, i.e. i.e., a count of the number of candidates to be output for display. If the count is not below a maximum and a candidate has been selected 204, then the image and other essential contact information, i.e. i.e., name are forwarded to the display. If the count is below the maximum, the selection process continues in a selection loop until all the candidates have been selected. The loop comprises: determining if more candidates are available 208 and searching the contact list based on a specified algorithm 210. If the candidate meets the user preferences 212, then the candidate is added to the selection list 214 and the count is incremented 216. If no candidate met the user preferences, the selection returns to the recognition of the count step 202.

Please amend paragraph 1 on page 11, beginning on line 9 as follows:

Figure 3 illustrates a screenshot as might be found on a typical PC display. The display 300 includes various objects as typically found in an electronic organizer. The objects include, but are not limited to: a calendar function 302, date and time information 314, events 304 (such as meetings, flights, etc.), "to do" lists 306, a journal 308, and reminders 310. According to the present invention, an image of a selected candidate is displayed 312. In addition to the image, in alternative embodiments such information such as name, specifics of last meeting (e.g. date, location, other attendees, etc.) are displayed. The user selects the image to display the contact

information and proceeds to make contact, ~~i.e.~~ i.e., arrange a meeting, e-mail, telephone, etc. In a Web (WWW) embodiment, a URL is associated with the image/name. In one embodiment, clicking on the URL would bring up a Web page containing the contact information. In another embodiment, making a selection would activate a URL, which triggers actions including, for example, e-mail.

Please amend paragraph 2 on page 11, beginning on line 21 as follows:

The above described functional elements are implemented in various computing environments. For example, the present invention may be implemented on a conventional IBM PC or equivalent, multi-nodal system (~~e.g.~~ e.g., LAN) or networking system (~~e.g.~~ e.g., Internet, WWW). All programming, GUIs, display panels and dialog box templates, and data related thereto are stored in computer memory, static or dynamic, and may be retrieved by the user in any of: conventional computer storage, display (~~i.e.~~ i.e., CRT) and/or hardcopy (~~i.e.~~ i.e., printed) formats. The programming of the present invention may be implemented by one of skill in the art of general, graphics or object-oriented programming.

APPENDIX B

In the claims:

1. (Once Amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user comprising the following steps:

retaining user preferences;

retaining a list of possible contacts; said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

automatically searching said list of possible contacts to select a potential contact based on said user preferences,

retaining potential contacts selected during said search, and

displaying to the user an available image or other identifying information of a potential contact.

3. (Once Amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

5. (Once Amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said searching step is initiated either manually by the user or automatically by a time-based reference in the user preferences.

10. (Once Amended) A computer-based method of dynamically presenting potential contacts to a user, as per claim 1, wherein said displaying step further comprises insertion of said contact

available image or identifying information into a GUI.

14. (Once Amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, said system comprising:

user preferences stored in computer storage;

a contact list stored in computer storage, said contact list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

a manual request unit;

a time-based request unit providing an invocation for time-based automatic searching;

a display module;

a search module, said search module determining the candidates to be selected;

a request processor, said processor detecting an invocation output from said manual request unit or said time-based request unit and initiating said search module to select one or more possible contacts, and

wherein said selected candidates are stored in computer storage and processed to display, by said display module, said selected contact image or information to the user.

16. (Once Amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

22. (Once Amended) A computer-based system for dynamically selecting possible contacts, as per claim 14, wherein said displaying further comprises insertion of said contact available image

or identifying information into a GUI.

26. (Once Amended)   An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact comprising computer programmable code implementing:

retaining default or user selected preferences;

retrieving a list of possible contacts; said list comprising at least identifying information and available images of said contacts;

selecting a number of possible candidates to be presented;

identifying a specific method of possible candidate selection;

manually or automatically initiating a search for one or more possible candidates based on said user preferences, available candidates and method of selection, and wherein said one or more candidates are presented visually to the user as a suggestion for contact.

27. (Once Amended)   An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said user preferences comprise any of: professional or personal contact, automatic or manual preference on initiating the searching step, time-based references, select algorithms, and maximum number of candidates to select.

34. (Once Amended)   An article of manufacture comprising a computer media product implementing a process for selecting and presenting to a user possible candidates for contact, as per claim 26, wherein said presenting visually to the user step further comprises insertion of said

~~contact~~ available image or identifying information into a GUI.